The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LABOR'S FIGHTING SPIRIT KEYED TO RECORD PITCH

The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, held this year in Denver, will have one outstanding feature—a clearer knowledge by these organized workers of labor's power and labor's historic mission.

While a crisis confronts organized labor today, the same was true in 1910, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

From a relative standpoint, the organized workers are always confronted by cries. It is the price men and women must pay if they would win liberty and wider opportunity.

Labor is better positioned than ever before. It possesses a wider knowledge of its opponents' methods and purposes, it is better organized and disciplined and the philosophy of trade unionism is more generally diffused.

The frenzied anti-union propaganda that started with the signing of the armistice has had no effect on labor's morale.

There are instances where labor has been forced to give ground, but the workers have contested every inch. In no case have they stampeded. They have held their lines intact and have not surrendered a single principle.

An army that has this command of itself in times like these is unbeatable, for it is an axiom in all warfare that an opponent's morale—its spirit—must first be destroyed if he is to be conquered.

Labor's morale has not only not been destroyed but it has forced the leading association of business men in this country to publicly acknowledge that their anti-union campaign has failed, and that the company "union" is its next mode of attack.

Seldom does anti-unionism hold such a conspicuous white flag as they did in this confession of defeat; in this acknowledgment that their 20-year anti-union shop campaign has been wasted effort, and that they have been "discovered."

This acknowledgment undoubtedly marks the beginning of a new era in the warfare against organized labor.

Henceforth, open foes will pose as alleged friends who come to bore with company-controlled "unions" and their "industrial democracy" that is ruled from above.

The men and women of labor, who will confer at Denver, will reflect this spirit of solidarity that has forced our opponents to reform their lines.

There will be strong differences of opinion over details at Denver, because there will be strong-minded men and women there but these differences will not affect the spirit of unity, the bonds of solidarity, that have cemented the wage earners of our country to such a marked degree and keyed labor's fighting spirit to a record pitch.

The soul of labor marches on!

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

INIQUITY OF "DEFLATING WORKERS"

BY PRESIDENT COMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

No more heartless phrase has ever crept into the human vocabulary than the phrase "deflation of labor." It is well enough and proper enough to speak of the deflation of inordinate things. The meaning of deflation is clear. The word brings to mind the exact process that is meant by the word.

Deflation means subtraction. It means taking away something, or letting it go. It means flight, or fleeing; the size or bulk of something, so that it will occupy a smaller space than formerly.

Labor is human life. Labor is inseparable from human beings. Labor does not mean a commodity. Labor means the warmth of life and the handclasp of hand and hand. It means the men and women at the work benches and in the street. It means the children in school and in the home. It means the family circle.

Deflating labor means subtracting something from life. More tragic than that—it means taking something from life where there never has been abundance, where there never has been fullness, where there never has been more than the foundation, the essentials, the elementals.

Deflating labor does not mean taking from life where life has been satisfied with an over-abundance.

The real essence of labor deflation is that it is proposed to squeeze from it happiness, the joy of living, the joy of the expression of human beings.

The great financial and industrial powers declare that they intend to go about the country taking away a meal here, a suit of clothes there, a home at some other place, a bit of education and sunshine still further on. From one home one thing, from another home another thing. It is more rapid and final in its effect to just plain it would be to go about pinching off arms and fingers and ears.

Deflate labor, is the cry. Take something away from labor, leave a little less in the homes of the workers, draw the window shades a little tighter against the sunlight, let fewer children pass through the doors of schools, let fewer live to the age of maturity, let fewer have access to books and to the human pleasures and delights of life. Shrink the waist-line and tighten the belts. Deflate!

A real deflation of expanded values finds justification in the reason in taking away the unreal and the fictitious. But that is not what is proposed by those who say "deflate labor."

The deflation that is proposed is a subtraction of real values, a taking away of substance, a sheer cut to the quick of life.

And where the workers are concerned the deflation is a sword of two edges. The number of dollars is to be reduced and then the buying power of the human dollar is to be reduced. What is proposed is a double gouge into the life of the toiling masses. And as long as the workers are ready and willing to produce the maximum of the standard of living to which they aspire somehow there must be found a way to keep open for them the opportunity to sustain this standard without the interference of an arbitrary power.

The willingness of labor to produce should be forever labor's guarantee against shrinking the fullness of life. Labor's contribution at the work-bench should be its injunction in perpetuum against the hideousness of deflation; the fullness of effort should measure the fullness of life and the cramping process should have no voice and no power to reach out the hand that throttles and chokes.

The voice of labor is raised in protest against the land against the cruelty of the theft that is proposed and that has taken place at some points. Somehow there must be found a way to take from grasping hands the power and the strength to restrict the lives and the development of the millions of toilers. And until the toilers find a better way they will use the weapons they now have, their will and their determination. Put, is the strength.

Deflation of labor is not to be willed and executed by the few who do not labor!

LESS DOLLAR VALUE IS VIVIDLY SHOWN

Washington, June 4.—The United States bureau of labor statistics has compiled lists of commodities that a dollar would purchase each year from 1913 to 1920, and for March, 1921.

In March, 1921, the dollar would buy approximately one-half of the amount of flour and bens it would in 1913. The same is true of bread and rolls, while pork chops, ham, and other commodities nearly come within this list. The figures for these years, in pounds, are:

Sirloin steak—1913,	2.5	pounds;
March, 1921,	2.6	pounds.
Round steak—1913,	4.5	pounds;
March, 1921,	5.9	pounds.
Rib roast—1913,	3.1	pounds;
March, 1921,	4.3	pounds.
Chuck roast—1913,	6.3	pounds;
March, 1921,	4.4	pounds.
Plate beef—1913,	8.3	pounds;
March, 1921,	6.4	pounds.
Pork chops—1913,	4.8	pounds;
March, 1921,	2.8	pounds.
Bacon—1913,	3.7	pounds; March, 1921, 2.4 pounds.
Ham—1913,	3.7	pounds; March, 1921, 2.3 pounds.
Lard—1913,	6.3	pounds; March, 1921, 3.7 pounds.
Hens—1913,	4.7	pounds; March, 1921, 2.2 pounds.
Eggs—1913,	2.9	dozen; March, 1921, 2.4 dozen.
Butter—1913,	2.6	pounds; March, 1921, 1.7 pounds.
Cheese—1913,	4.5	pounds; March, 1921, 2.4 pounds.
Milk—1913,	11.2	quarts; March, 1921, 6.6 quarts.
Bread—1913,	17.9	pounds; March, 1921, 9.5 pounds.
Rolls—1913,	20.3	pounds; March, 1921, 15.6 pounds.
Corn meal—1913,	32.2	pounds; March, 1921, 19.5 pounds.
Rice—1913,	11.5	pounds; March, 1921, 10.2 pounds.
Potatoes—1913,	58.8	pounds; March, 1921, 40 pounds.
Onions—1913,	16.2	pounds; March, 1921, 10.3 pounds.
Coffee—1913,	3.4	pounds; March, 1921, 2.3 pounds.
Tea—1913,	1.6	pounds; March, 1921, 1.4 pounds.

COMPANY "UNIONS" CAN'T CHECK LABOR

Chicago, June 4.—In their efforts to establish the anti-union shop, and with the hope of beating legitimate trade union organizations, several of the larger employers of labor have instituted company "unions," writes George W. Perkins, editor of the Cigar Makers' Official Journal.

"There has been much said in the public press as to the 'industrial democracy' that was so willingly being dispensed by these employers and the various plans being heralded as something much preferred and far superior to the 'autocratic' trade unions.

"As soon as any indication protested toward a desire on the part of the workers for organization the employer saw the need of a union and proceeded at once to organize it. Elections were held and representatives (?) of the workers were elected to sit in council with their employer.

"Various high sounding but meaningless names were given these councils. In at least one concern they have what they are pleased to call 'congress,' composed of senators (foremen), and representatives (the ordinary workers.) It seems however, that the employer is the 'supreme court' and has the veto power. This, quite naturally, hampers the enactment of any law or rule that might be passed by 'congress' should it not meet with the employer's favor. The idea of government in a thing, at least, is absolutely unconstitutional, and that is the right to initiate, to veto and to judge. Then, that no matter what 'congress' does it is at a loss to enforce its mandates.

"In none of these hand-made employers' 'unions' is the body given been able to protect either their hours of labor, their working conditions or their wages. And as we never intended that they should, in fact, in accordance with their declaration of their own particular trade, the sooner they will be able to solve the age-old problem of the struggle for existence."

WHAT FOREST FIRES MEAN.

Washington, June 4.—Forest fires in this country are responsible for more than 2,000,000,000 feet of timber destroyed annually, to build a five-room frame house every 300 feet on both sides of a road, according to figures just issued by the forest service. If known as well as it should be, the common law writ "audita querela" (after the complaint has been answered) is a writ of ancient use to call the court's attention to additional evidence in a case that would have changed the decision if known in time.

Numerous attempts have been made to reopen the case that perjury affidavits may be presented, but the courts hold that the California law provides that a plea for a new trial must be made within the record of decision, and the connection of big business with this affair. If he is pardoned, this escape is impossible.

GENEROUS BOSSES.

Rock Island, Ill., June 4.—The Tri-City Railway company has established a record for generosity. The company has been in the habit of giving on its cars, and among the company tasks that its motormen and conductors perform, is the selling of tickets for the benefit of anti-union shows and accept a wage reduction of 20 cents an hour.

The company is also attempting to install one-man cars, which will dispense with conductors.

DROP ANTI-UNION FIGHT.

Paterson, N. J., June 4. — The Employers' association of this city and vicinity has dropped its anti-union fight against building craftsmen and accepted last year's rates. These workers were locked out when they refused to accept the open-shop and wage reduction.

CONDEMN INJUNCTIONS.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 4.—The use of the injunction in labor disputes was condemned by the annual convention of the state building trades council. The 1921 state legislature way denounced for its failure to pass remedial legislation.

WAGE EARNERS' FOES APPLAUD DUALISTS

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, June 4.—In the time and energy that has been given in the last 50 years to dual effort had been given to building up and consolidating, what would be further up the road today," says Industrial Labor News. "The trade union movement," says Editor Roper, "needs no defense against transforming windjammers, whose chief stock in trade is scurrility and abuse, who oppose every effort to disrupt the labor movement.

"History," he says, "has proven the utter and absolute folly of dual movements, and history has repeated itself in every instance in the case of the men who have engineered the various impudent, in some cases, self-aggrandizement in others, has conquered, over the better judgment of such men and has led them into an enterprise that has ended in disaster.

"Failure has made them bitter and bitterness has made them abusive.

"But to the wage workers now and in the future, as in the past, the great consideration is, 'what is the best organization that will improve my condition?' The answer must be taken from experience and experience has proven that trade unionism is the only institution which has benefited the working class. Where the movement has failed it has been just in the measure that it lacked solidarity. It is the responsibility for much of the lack of solidarity that the organizers can be laid at the door of those who used their endeavors to disrupt the labor organizations.

"The folly of trying to solidify anything by breaking it into pieces should be apparent."

GOVERNMENT IS COSTLY.

Washington, June 4.—Congressional tax committees have unearthed facts showing the high cost of government in this country. This includes federal, state, city, county and village taxes.

Figuring the government charge in some cases, comparisons for the last year is cost every wage earner in the United States—and that term includes the salaried men and women—about $210. Some officials believe that it exceeds that figure, while in other words, out of every dollar the wage earner gets, the government takes $21 cents.

In an article written on this subject by Harden Colfax, and published in the Washington Post, it is declared that "peace time never knew the governmental cost of government before."

"While the cost of living has fallen 15 per cent in the last 12 months ago," says this writer, "cost of government has increased still upon its loftiest eminence, barring the days when the country was at war and maintaining an army and building a navy and supporting the allied world with its loans.

"The reasons for this and how to make it less is going to cause considerable research and a lot of verbal encounters on the floor of congress during the days near at hand."

PRODUCTS' VALUE GAIN.

Washington, June 4.—In a preliminary report on the 1919 census bureau on 1919 manufacturing it is shown that practically the entire number of establishments created more than two and one-half times the value of their products.

The number of establishments in 1914 were 275,791, and in 1919, 288,613.

The value of the products in 1914 were $24,246,429,000, and in 1919 this increased to $62,585,906,000.

The 1919 figures have an added significance when it is remembered that during that year and in 1920 our "molders of public opinion" were shrieked that labor was receiving less and that "the workers are failing to do an honest day's work."

CLAIMS COURT SET UP.

San Francisco, June 4. — The small claims court for this city, created by the last legislature, to make litigation easier for the small claimant, is on.

Any one with a claim of less than $50 can ask for a complaint blank. It will be drawn up by the justice without fee or red tape. The justice then sets a date for a hearing not less than five days or more than 15 days after the complaint is filed. Witnesses may be cited to bring in his books and prepare his defense. There are no pleadings or delay granted and no lawyers are needed.

"BRICKIES" HOLD LINE.

Paterson, N. J., June 4.—Organized bricklayers in this city and vicinity have defeated a wage reduction scheme, and are again working at last year's rate.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Sherman, Texas, June 4.—The Laundry Workers' union has secured a union shop agreement which carries wage increases.

URGE COMPENSATION LAW.

Washington, June 4.—In urging a compulsory workmen's compensation law for the District of Columbia, Edgar Wallace, A. F. of L. legislative representative, explained to a congressional committee how business men evade voluntary compensation laws. He said trade unions are compelled to employ skilled attorneys to secure justice when private liability companies are permitted to operate.

"If the organized workers are forced, for the protection of their members, to secure adequate legal aid, what then is the status of the unorganized workers?" he asked.

"To my knowledge, every compensation law has been nullified by the corps of expert claim agents employed by insurance companies organized by the machinations of the very competent lawyers that the insurance companies employ to save their payments that the insurance companies have saved to assume.

The witness made the point that the proposed law considers the welfare of the injured workman, disabled or injured, while a private insurance company, considering only the welfare of its stockholders, is compelled to the risk, would ask lighter premiums and thus get business from those who employed have dependent relatives.

"The result would be to discourage the employment of married men, men with dependent relatives, and would add to the detriment of the country as a whole," the trade unionist said.

WHY LIBERTY IS OPPOSED.

Wilmington, Del., June 4.—"American monopolists in the Philippines are accumulating stock in the way of independence for the islands," says the bulletin of the national single tax league.

"Such unimportant matters as self-determination for all nations and national progress and rights interfere with their predatory plans. There is nothing unusual.

"Back of every effort by one nation to force its rule upon another lies a predatory design, and it is usually one in which land monopoly plays a leading part. Congressman Frear of Wisconsin has shown this to be the case with opposition to Philippine independence. And it is largely instigated by a large development company organized to exploit oil, live stock, transportation, etc., in the islands, and also the sugar trust and the tobacco trust of this country and other large influential combinations.

"It does not appear that the Filipinos harbor any designs against land monopoly, but this opposition is nullifying their own rights to enjoy unfair advantages under an existing government are always uncertain concerning any proposed change not of their own engineering."

WILL REVIEW NAVY WAGES.

Washington, June 4.—Officers of the A. F. of L. metal trades department have failed to secure a postponement of the convening of navy yard wage boards until fall so that any readjustment would not become effective until the first of next year.

The navy department has ordered a wage adjustment in all navy yards, and naval stations. The metal trades department desired the establishment of a reviewing board, however, to consider the reports made by the boards at the various yards and submit its recommendations to the secretary of the navy. A. J. Berres, secretary of the metal trades department, is the workers' representative on this reviewing board. The other members are Captain R. M. Robison and F. C. Curtis, chief clerk of the navy department.

SHAM PATRIOTS.

Peoria, Ill., June 4.—Organized bakers are not impressed by the patriotic claims of bakery employers who demand the anti-union shop. One of the unionists writes:

"These bakery employers brag about their patriotism and high mindedness and they ordered all some of the men they are fighting were on the firing line during the war, but they stayed at home and made plenty of 'dough' out of imitation flour, and also many of these self same patriotic antiunionists were heavily fined during the war for not living up to the government's orders in reference to war-time regulations.

"Yet they now wave the flag and yell about patriotism and 'Americanism.'"

COSSACK HEROISM.

Williamson, W. Va., June 4.—Carl Williamson, a miner, entered the office of the United Mine Workers and ordered David Robb, representative of that organization, to remove from the wall a card bearing the definition of a "striker."

The trade unionist refused and stated that the definition was recognized by every standard dictionary.

The cossack made a gallant charge against the pioneer of free speech, unconditional surrender and bore it off in triumph to his captain.

THEY TALK OF "LIBERTY."

Davenport, Iowa, June 4.—Electrical contractors have signed an agreement with the Electrical Workers' union and these business men have been expelled from the Employing Electrical Contractors' association.

SIGN YEAR CONTRACT.

Peoria, Ill., June 4.—The wage controversy between organized street car men and the local traction company has been ended. Last year's contract has been renewed for another year.

ADJUST METAL STRIKE.

New Orleans, La., June 4.—The metal trades strike has been adjusted on a basis of 10 cents an hour for mechanics, and 5 cents an hour for helpers.

ASBESTOS WORKERS UNITE.

Spokane, Wash., June 4.—A local asbestos workers has been organized in this city.

POPULIST THEORIES REVIVED BY BANKER

Washington, June 4.—Government warehouses, like the populists 30 years ago, was favored by President Kent, of the Passaic (N. J.) Merchants' bank, in an address before a newly-formed stable money league.

The meeting was attended by economists, bankers and lawmakers. Instead of hooting the Passaic citizen, as was the custom 30 years ago when a so-called "bewhiskered populist" spoke, Mr. Kent was elected vice president of the organization.

His most sensational statement was the proposal to take the money value out of gold.

He favored a plan to establish government warehouses where gold could be deposited from, coal, cloth, wheat, leather and similar commodities that are susceptible to storage without undue deterioration within a limited period.

The speaker said there was three movements abroad at the present time to restrict the circulating medium in order to take the control of vital products out of the hands of certain classes of middlemen.

"The number of commodities selected should be small enough to keep the scheme simple," said the speaker. "It should be large enough to guard against any attempt at profiteering upon the value of the aggregate due to a shortage in any particular commodity, or to crop failure in a geographical section, such as a readily imagined case in the cotton south might have a very bad year in cotton, tobacco and grain.

"A suitable, composite unit should be constructed, perhaps with reference to the average production of a normal family for a year. A certificate should be issued upon the deposit of such stock, transported, chosen commodities. The dollar should then be redeemable at any of the unit aggregate of these commodities and of fractions of the unit."

BAD CONDITIONS SHOWN.

Washington, June 4.—The United States child labor bureau says the administration is not enforcing the child labor law has shown the vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy, bodily feebleness and poverty. In five states it was found that many of the children were underweight when examined by a physician. They had been working in the mills for several years. They gained quickly when taken out of the mill and put on a better diet. While in school it was difficult to reach even the low standard called for by the physical requirements. Many parents were reported unable to pay for medical attention, and in some cases no public clinics were available to lend assistance.

One-fifth of the children in the five states left school when they were in the fourth grade; almost one-tenth of fourteen-year-olds attended school or had not gone beyond the third grade. While only one-twenty-fifth had attended the eighth or a higher grade. Their educational equipment is far more inferior than the grade which they last attended would indicate.

One-fourth of the children would be refused certificates if ability to write their names legibly had been a requirement.

FINE LABOR CARTOONS.

Washington, June 4.—J. M. Baer, the noted cartoonist and former member of congress from North Dakota, is now engaged in writing a weekly service for the labor press. Mr. Baer has moved his office here to his art work and has become one of the most quoted cartoonists in the country. His office is in the Machinists' building, this city.

Several labor papers are now running the service. It is one of the first cartoon services which has been offered exclusively to the labor press without the purposes of putting over propaganda for special interests, that "railway" weekly Baer's cartoons have been hot shots at anti-unionists.

MANAGERS ARE POXY.

Chicago, June 4.—After securing a wage increase, railroad and railway labor board that approximates $400,000,000 annually, it is stated in the public press that "railway executives expressed disappointment at what they declared to be the inadequate increase."

It can hardly be expected that railway executives will be willing unless to publicly shout with joy, instead of affecting a funeral air.

The railway managers have always firemen, conductors, trainmen, and switchmen will meet in this city the first of next month to consider these wage reductions.

LABORERS UNITE.

Corning, N. Y., June 4.—Hod carriers, building and common laborers in this city have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK.

Belmar, N. J., June 4.—Teamsters and chauffeurs at this place have secured the 44-hour week.

CANADIAN SALES TAX PROVES A "BLOOMER"

New York, June 4.—The sales tax in Canada is not a substitute but is an additional tax on business profits, writes W. G. Gatez, Canadian correspondent to Commerce and Finance.

"Americans who imagine that the Canadian experiment throws a flood of light on the sales and turnover taxes will probably be disappointed," says the correspondent.

"The one sure thing demonstrated by the 19 months' experiment up to March 31 is that the tax has not produced the revenue expected. Our minister of finance, like Moses, struck the rock, but there was no great outrush of water, nothing more than a trickle equal to less than 10 per cent of the total revenue. Another fact demonstrated is that the tax can never be counted on as a source of revenue.

"The sales tax consists of 1 per cent on sales by manufacturers and wholesalers or jobbers, and importations at their dutiable value.

"Cash purchases only must be taken as fairly good evidence that estimates of probable returns from the national sales tax turnover taxes have been much exaggerated. Apparently they have been based on 10 per cent on the figure of normal period, but of one of marked inflation.

"While Americans may get the results of the Canadian experiment material for guidance in framing their own policy, they may well hesitate before jumping to the conclusion that because this method of taxation is considered necessary in Canada, or even in Great Britain, it is desirable in the United States.

"For one thing, Canada needs revenue more badly than does the Republic."

HOW PACKERS GOUGE.

Washington, June 4.—How Chicago meat packers have forced farmers' prices down to prewar levels, while maintaining their own, was shown by Congressman McLaughlin of Nebraska, who quoted from the Chicago Tribune, published by the meat packers.

In the second week in April, 1921, the average price of cattle on hoof in the Chicago market had fallen to $5.25 a hundred. This is the same price at which they sold the first week in February, 1915. The first week in February, 1914, the average price was $8.30.

"So far cattle," said Congressman McLaughlin, "may be said to have returned to the prewar level."

The packers' profits are presented the meat packers' wholesale prices, which never seem to rise, decrease of 23½ per cent for carcass beef in Chicago.

The wholesale price of whole dressed hogs advanced 56.6 per cent during the same period, while hog increases are recorded in every product of beef and pork.

"STUDY AND GROW STRONG."

Princeton, N. J., June 4.—"Study and grow strong" is the advice Dean West of Princeton university gave students at that institution.

The educator said study is "the athletics of the mind and that in the last 40 years there is only one recorded case of a Princeton student who died of overstudy."

"Don't be afraid to study," he urged. "Modern experience shows that the studies which have most surely produced the best results are mindebending and the classics, fundamental science, history, philosophy, modern literature and at least the elements of political economy. The man who knows these well is a finely educated man."

RESIST WAGE CUTS.

Olten, Switzerland, June 4.—The Swiss Federation of Trade Unions has made this declaration against wage reductions:

"The Swiss Trade Union Commission contests the right of the employers and their organizations to reduce the wages of workers under the pretext of lowering the cost of living, since they themselves are largely responsible for the inflation of prices as long as they refuse to consent to a reduction of their profits. It is notorious that at the present time enormous profits are being made in commerce and industry."

SALES TAX HAS FAILED.

Washington, June 4.—Professor Edwin R. Seligman, head of the department of economics, Columbia university, told the senate finance committee that the sales tax has failed in Canada and Germany.

He said this is "an upside down income tax," to be resorted to only in countries where fiscal difficulties force the subordination of everything else to the adequacy of revenue.

CAN DODGE SALES TAX.

Ottawa, Canada, June 4.—Farmers are grumbling over the Canadian sales tax, which is evaded by those rich enough to spend part of their time abroad while the man who is forced to stay at home pays in full.

COMBINES GRIP U. S.; STOP HOME BUILDING

New York, June 4.—Combinations of business men in the United States declared Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood investigating commission, in defiance of a court subpoena that is given to counsel for the congressional committee, he said, he could keep on presenting evidence of building trade conspiracies for at least two years, as he has uncovered evidence that the entire nation is overrun by associations of dealers which maintain prices at extortionate levels and strangle attempts at solution of the housing shortage everywhere.

"They are all powerful," he said. "It is still possible to reach the little fellows, but the big ones are the most dangerous of them apparently are already above and beyond the reach of it unless—

"I am no alarmist and I have unbounded confidence in the soundness of our institutions, but my great fear is that the country either does not sufficiently realize or has become callous to the perils that lie in the spread unrest that is being accentuated by the greed and piracy of these combinations that threaten the very foundations of our government.

"I have been unable to discover a single article dealing with the building construction that is not the subject of combination, and I have every reason to believe that this is true of at least one-half of all the trade industries in the United States outside of the building trades.

"The activities of these combines that are the most dangerous require the same kind of attention that the secret service gives to counterfeiting or the internal revenue bureau to deceive at the hands of the police."

"MAKES FACES" AT BOSSES.

Portland, Ore., June 4.—The board of directors of the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen has assessed fines against 30 mills in 10 mills that violated the scale of this organization.

Trade unionists laugh at the attempt to "make faces" at these employers. A referendum vote of legion since the unemployment problem permeated the ranks of the labor question without the aid of the so-called "union."

The loyal legion was organized during the war by Colonel Disque, and was widely acclaimed in the public press. Its membership includes employers. Of late it has been very disrespectful to executive secretary, and editor of the Four L. Bulletin—Robert S. Kerr—who was assigned to keep Baltimore employing printers do the impossible—defeat the 44-hour strike of printing trade employes.

Local trade unionists declare that Gill will find a situation far more that differs from the northwest lumber region.

BUDGET BILL IS PASSED.

Washington, June 4.—By practically a unanimous vote congress has passed the budget bill, the office of comptroller general, a president-appointee to hold office for 15 years, is created.

This legislation has been urged for many years by those who want to stop wasteful expenditures and check the legislative system known as "log rolling" to secure appropriations. The act really provides for a budget system, however, in that congress is not prevented from making appropriations outside of those favored by the comptroller general. Neither will it check the old system of administrative officials coming to congress and asking deficiency appropriations to meet debts without warrant in law.

BASED ON LOW STANDARD.

Albany, N. Y., June 4.—The state department of labor announces that the April average weekly earnings of employees in all the manufacturing industries of the state was $26.20, a reduction of 77 cents from the previous month.

"Compared with June, 1914, however, factory earnings in April still show an increase of 106 per cent."

These boasted "high" wages mean that the average weekly wage in 1914 for factory employes in this state was $12.71¼.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Racine, Wis., June 4.—The Alschuler Manufacturing company has signed an agreement with the United Garment Workers. Strikers will be given their former jobs and union girls installed. The company locked out its employes last January when they refused to accept wage cuts.

DEATHS IN COKE INDUSTRY.

Washington, June 4.—The bureau of mines announces that accidents in coke ovens in this country last year caused 49 deaths and 1,416 injuries, and the injury of 2,415 others. The industry employed 39,135 persons.

CENSOR BILL SIGNED.

Boston, June 4.—Governor Cox has signed a bill which gives the department of public safety censor power over moving pictures.